

# PDL Update:

## COVID-19 Surveillance Pooled Test Option

August 2021

Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) offers a pooling option for COVID-19 surveillance testing. This is being provided as an overview of this testing option. If your facility is interested in more information or to set up testing arrangements, please contact your sales representative.

TEST NAME	CODE	TAT	USE
COVID-19 Pooled	LAB10825	<b>24-48 hours</b> <i>From receipt in lab</i>	<b>FOR SURVEILLANCE TESTING ONLY</b>

**Acceptable specimen sources:** Nasopharyngeal or Nasal (Please note that saliva is NOT an acceptable source)

**Collection Kit:** Viral Transport Media (VTM) or Universal Transport Medial (UTM) or Saline (0.9%)

**Volume:** 3 mL

**Minimum Volume:** 0.6 mL

**Transport Temperature:** Refrigerated

**Courier Pickup:** Specimen pick-up/transport to PDL through the standard courier process

- *Please DO NOT drop off COVID-19 specimens or send suspected COVID-19 patients to a Patient Service Center*
- *PDL does not offer any collection services for this testing at the Patient Services Centers*

### OVERVIEW

- Pooled testing is designed for surveillance testing and cannot be billed to insurance.
- For specimens submitted under the pooled surveillance program, PDL will create a pool of 4-5 specimens in accordance to our validated procedure.
- If three or less specimens are received, the specimens will be run individually.
- The pooled sample will then be tested:
  - If the pool result is negative, each specimen result will have a comment specifying it was from a pooled testing group.
  - If the pool result is positive, each specimen from the pool group will be tested individually.

### METHODS IN USE

**Hologic Panther Aptima® SARS CoV-2** assay is a nucleic acid amplification test that combines the technologies of target capture, Transcription Mediated Amplification (TMA), and Dual Kinetic Assay (DKA) in the testing process. PDL validated the pooled process and have submitted compliance to the FDA.

### COLLECTION

**Nasopharyngeal (NP) collection:** Must be performed by the physician or other healthcare provider following standard procedure and safety precautions.

**Nasal collections:** May be done by a physician or other healthcare provider. Observed self-collections are also acceptable following CDC guidelines.

**PDL COVID-19 COLLECTION SITES are available by appointment only for symptomatic patients.** We are unable to accommodate surveillance collections at this time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT 805-879-8100